

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, John Thompson, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Mike Radenmacher

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4:10 pm

1. **Meeting minutes from 2/20/13 reviewed and accepted with revisions**
(Revisions have been made and sent it to Jack)
2. **Diversity Career Fair 4/10/13 11-2**
 - 30 employers will be participating
 - Flyers distributed to the commission members
 - Unsure if the town of Arlington is participating as an employer or not, jobs have not been available in the current budget crunch
 - Good mix of employers including healthcare, education, retail (specifics not available at time of meeting)
 - The commission's role at the event: greeters, direct people to tables, help with refreshments, chair set up, fill in the gaps, available to people that require assistance to access event
 - People have already been asking commission members if resumes could be dropped off- will direct these requestors to employers directly and/or to Greg
 - Side conversation from this topic
 - Discussion of program for elderly volunteers (tax deduction ?\$750, for those that qualify)
 - Could these programs be available to people with disabilities within the town??

Jack to ask about this availability

3. **Curb Cut ramp project**
 - \$138,000 left over for fiscal year 2013, ERA (out of Ipswich) won the bid last year and should be starting work in early April
 - Starting on Medford St, River St, Dearborn Academy area, Thompson School area
 - 2014 request of \$150,000 CDBG money put in by February due date
 - Subcommittee of Selectmen to make decision regarding CDBG request, possibly the week after this meeting
 - *FYI- Arlington is considered entitlement community- receives money from federal government directly as opposed to going from federal to state to Arlington. Arlington*

was grandfathered into entitlement, even though the town is under the population requirement

- The selectmen are waiting to hear from the federal government prior to delegating money within the town
- Possibly \$65,000 in capital budget for curb cut ramps where road repair work is being performed (as opposed to out of CDBG money)
- *Most areas for CDBG curb cut work have been decided for fiscal year 2013, however commission members can suggest areas of concern...more than one problem curb cut in an area or a community members personal struggle with access around their home or workplace*
- Commission members inquiring if we should be more involved in promoting increasing the speed of work performed
- Are people in town aware of this project and our involvement? Should we promote our involvement in the paper? What our focus is? How to reach us with concerns?
- Will work on a list of curb cuts for fiscal year 2014 (fiscal year 2014 begins July 1,2013), develop criteria to prioritize
- Commission will start work on list at next meeting and work to finalize list in May

4. COD Budget 2013

- Budget distributed to the commission members
- What is our budget? Can we get more? When, what time of year do we request money?
- Expenses for the year include: 504 compliance handbook, pens, items for town day, newsletter, business cards
- Upcoming expenses: custodial costs for job fair, sign for two handicap spots at Arlington High School
- Curb cut money is not out of COD budget, but rather special CDBG fund
- Decisions are made about town commission budgets in January for the upcoming July
- Discussion of money from ticketing vehicles for parking illegally in handicap spots to come back to COD budget money – *Jeff Duggan could come out to our meeting to further discuss*
- We have about \$1000 for FY13 left
- Do we have any ideas of what we could do with this money to help the community?

5. Town Website

- Improvements have been happening in past month
- Commission member names and terms have been updated
- Meeting minutes are being uploaded, noted that some notes are missing from previous years 2011-2012, and a few that need to be written up from recording
- Plan going forward is that notes will be added to website monthly as they are approved by the commission at the following meeting
- Setting up links- John gave good references of Somerville's website
- Rachel to follow up with resource info she received at recent event
- Could we post accessible playground locations within town
- Allow space for town members to provide us with input and suggestions

6. Report to Town Meeting

- Different from the one in January
- Can be issued and/or presented at Town Meeting
- Possibly to present at second week's meeting
- Town meeting starts April 27th
- Who will write it up? Who will present?
- Highlights of improved accessibility, curb cuts

7. Accessibility Improvements at Arlington High School

- the high school has installed a push button door in front of building
- currently only one accessible spot exists and it is not near the door
- will be adding 2 accessible spaces near the door that is accessible
- commission will provide curb cut, through CDBG money FY 13 (ERA, contractor)
- Commission will pay for signs for handicap spots out of commission budget

8. Accessibility Improvements at Arlington Senior Center

- the horseshoe driveway to be resurfaced with asphalt vs cement this year
- discussions continue about where to put 2 more handicap spots, working on design, on street vs off street

9. Mass Ave Corridor Project

- Molly and Janice attended latest meeting and spoke
- Town Elections Ballot- non binding question to stay 4 lanes or change to 2
- Check and balance to have work done properly from accessibility perspective
- *Will follow up with Mike*

10. Thompson Elementary rebuild

- Jack spoke with project manager, Brian Defilipo)
- Project is on schedule and should be completed by end of summer
- Roof is complete, working on drywall and windows
- Commission would like chance to go in and inspect prior to construction final revisions completed

11. Other Business

- Handicap parking space at Regent Theatre to be added near corner before the bus stop of Medford St.
- Capitol Theatre- no longer listing on marquee the movies that are accessible, to official discuss at next meeting *Please add to agenda*
- Discussion of decals in storefront windows of locations that support accessibility options to their patrons (a "thumbs up" from the commission)
- Discussion of inviting Mary Maher, Housing Authority, to Commission meeting to discuss housing issues

Meeting adjourned 6:10 pm

Next Meeting set April 17, 2013